

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 412

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9038

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DISCUSSIONS WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWING
PRESENTATION OF OPENING STATEMENTS

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON COMMENTS MADE BY EASTERN REPS TO
MEMBERS OF US DEL FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF OPENING STATEMENTS,
PRIMARILY AT US RECEPTION FOR ALL DELEGATIONS ON 31 OCTOBER. US
REP'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES KHLESTOV AND
SMIRNOVSKY ON 30 OCTOBER HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPTEL. EASTERN REPS
MADE FOLLOWING GENERAL POINTS: THEY SUGGESTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS
SHOULD NOT TAKE TOO LONG AND SHOULD MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY TOWARD
REACHING AN AGREEMENT. THEY ATTACKED THE WESTERN EMPHASIS ON
DISPARITIES AND SUGGESTED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND AIR FORCES
PRESENTED DISPARITIES IN FAVOR OF NATO. THEY EMPHASIZED THE
IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO REDUCING NATIONAL AS WELL AS FOREIGN
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FORCES. THEY EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN WHAT WEST MEANT

BY SUGGESTING THE MBFR SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND THEY ESPECIALLY WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE WEST INTENDED TO USE THIS AS AN ESCAPE CLAUSE WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE AGREEMENT. FINALLY, EASTERN REPS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WHAT LAY IMMEDIATELY AHEAD IN NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET COMMENTS: AT OCTOBER 31 RECEPTION, AMB SMIRNOVSKY, NUMBER TWO MAN IN SOVIET DELEGATION, URGED US REP NOT TO TAKE TOO LONG IN NEGOTIATIONS AND TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY IN ORDER TO GET AN AGREEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AN AGREEMENT BE REACHED IN ORDER TO DIMINISH CONFRONTATION. SHUSTOV, WHO APPEARS TO HAVE SOME WEIGHT WITHIN SOVIET DEL, TOLD US DEPREP THAT HE WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED THAT THE US OPENING STATEMENT WAS FOCUSED ON ACTUAL SUBSTANCE IN CONTRAST TO DIFFUSENESS OF UN DEBATES WITH WHICH HE WAS FAMILIAR, AND EXCLUDE CONTENTIOUS REMARKS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS. SHUSTOV EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PASSAGE ON THIS POINT IN US STATEMENT WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL. COL. KAPITONOV ASKED MEMBER OF US DEL WHY WEST TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT DISPARITIES, ESPECIALLY GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES WHICH HE SAID EXISTED FOR SOVIETS ALSO. KAPITONOV SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS IF US INSISTED ON DWELLING ON DISPARITIES.

2. POLAND. DELEGATION MEMBER WOJTOWICZ OBJECTED TO THE ABSENCE IN WESTERN STATEMENTS OF ANY REFERENCE TO REDUCTION OF EUROPEAN FORCES. HE STATED THAT POLAND WAS INTERESTED IN REDUCING ITS FORCES AND GERMAN FORCES. POLAND WAS WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE DELAY IN REDUCTION OF ITS FORCES, GIVEN ECONOMIC PRESSURES. POLISH REPS FEARED LONG DELAY BETWEEN FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS AND SUBSEQUENT REDUCTIONS. THEY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE SCOPE AND THOROUGHNESS OF US OPENING STATEMENT AND PREPARATIONS. THEY NOTED THAT, WHILE THERE WERE FAIRLY WIDE GAPS BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN POSITIONS, THESE WERE NOT IRRECONCILABLE. POLISH REP EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT US REFERENCE TO SOVIET ARMOR CAPABILITY MOVING ACROSS "POLISH PLAIN".

3. CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CZECHOSLOVAKIAN REPS ALSO EMPHASIZED THE THEME OF MOVING AHEAD. THEY ASKED HOW LONG NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT LAST AND INDICATED THEY THOUGHT SOME INITIAL AGREEMENT MIGHT BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

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4. EAST GERMANY: AMB OESER EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE TOO SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE TALKS SHOULD MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY. OESER TOLD ONE DELEGATION MEMBER THAT AIR FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. HUNGARY. AMB PETRAN EXPRESSED CONCERN TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF US DEL THAT US IN PARTICULAR HAD RAISED THE HUNGARIAN ISSUE

IN ITS STATEMENT. HE ALSO ASKED WHY QUARLES HAD ALSO RAISED
ISSUE IN PRESS CONFERENCE AS WELL. (COMMENT: THAT WAS IN RE-
SPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT.)
HE SUGGESTED THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY
IN INITIAL TALKS AND WANTED TO AVOID HEAVY TREATMENT DURING
NEGOTIATIONS. PETRAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT AIR AND NUCLEAR
FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTIONS.

6. ROMANIA. ROMANIAN REPS, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT LIMITED
POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO THEM IN NEGOTIATIONS, STATED INTENTION
TO PLAY A FULL AND ACTIVE ROLE. THEY WERE CONCERNED
ABOUT THEIR ROLE AFTER INITIAL PERIOD OF FREQUENT PLENARIES
AND WANTED TO MAKE SURE ANY WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED WOULD
BE OPEN TO ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION. THEY SUGGESTED THAT ROMANIA
MIGHT BE COMING FORWARD IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WITH ITS OWN
PROPOSALS ON PROCEDURES. HUMES

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